[31st January 1936

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The Government have never held that an election when one vacancy remains unfilled is invalid. Each case has to be considered on its merits. In this case the Government considered that an opportunity should be given to voters in this circle to send their candidate."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether any petition was received praying that the election to the presidentship should be postponed on account of a vacancy pending?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"That I cannot say. A number of petitions were received on the point."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know what the report of the Collector on this point is?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"It is not desirable to state what exactly the Collector has reported. The answer says that the Government have in consultation with the Collector come to this decision."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Besides the reason given, are there any special considerations that induced the Government to decide that the president should not be elected till all the seats are filled?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The special consideration is that the Government felt that they should not encourage the practice of holding up elections by injunction petitions unless and until the Act or the rules have been violated by the election authorities."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know how long this administration has been in charge of the Collector?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I cannot give the exact date: probably it was a date in November."

Strength of staff sanctioned for each district board.

* 657 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the strength is under various categories such as secretary, manager of the Engineer's office, superintendents, accountants, upper division clerks, lower division clerks, attenders, and peons which was originally allowed to each district board by the Government after they took power for regulating those establishments; and

(*b*) how many posts in each variety they have since sanctioned in addition, to each district board and what the special reasons are for doing so?

A.—The information asked for is not readily available. The Government consider that the public interests served by furnishing the information will not be commensurate with the time and labour involved in collecting it.

31st January 1936]

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"May I ask whether this information could not be collected from the records available with the Government?"

The Hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"The existing establishment has been fixed as the normal schedule of establishment. There have been occasional changes and therefore it would not be possible to readily collect this information."

Settlement of the pension and provident fund accounts of the ex-taluk board clerks.

* 658 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the pension accounts of the ex-taluk board clerks have been settled and they have been put on the provident fund scheme; and

(*b*) if so, from which date and whether a copy of the order passed in the matter will be placed on the table?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to G.O. No. 1510, L. & M., dated the 15th April 1935, a copy of which has already been laid on the table of the House [vide question No. 60 (starred) answered on the 6th August 1935], and to G.O. No. 4099, L. & M., dated the 7th October 1935, a copy [a] of which is now laid on the table of the House. With reference to these orders the pension papers of the pensionable employees of late taluk boards are being forwarded by the presidents of district boards concerned to the Accountant-General for scrutiny and audit certificate.

Modification of the scale of pay of pandits employed in schools under district boards and municipalities.

* 659 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether orders have been passed modifying the scale of pay of pandits employed in the schools under the district boards and municipalities;

(*b*) if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(*c*) whether the matter of regulating the pay of pandits who are not holders of titles or proficiency certificates but who have been exempted in G.O. No. 1064, dated 12th March 1927, has been considered;

(*d*) if so, what the scale of pay allowed to such pandits is;

(*e*) whether representations have been received from such pandits employed in the Municipal High School at Gudiyattam in North Arcot district; and

(*f*) if so, what orders have been passed thereon, and whether a copy of it will be placed on the table?

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 321 infra.